

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 DHA-02 PM-04 NSC-05
SS-15 L-03 CU-02 /061 W
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R 241507Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2751
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSULATE MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USUN NEW YORK 563
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SHUM, CSCE, CZ
SUBJECT: CHARTER 77 - HAVEL RELEASED, MLYNAR RECEIVES EMIGRATION
PASSPORT

1. MAY 21 PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT THE INQUIRY INTO THE CRIMINAL CASES
OF OTTO ORNEST, JIRI LEDERER, VACLAV HAVEL AND FRANTISEK PAVLICEK
HAD BEEN CONCLUDED AND THE CASE TURNED OVER TO THE PROSEKCUTOR
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FOR FURTHER ACTION. THE REASONS FOR KEEPING PAVLICEK AND HAVEL IN
CUSTODY WERE NO LONGER VALID, SO THEY HAD BEEN RELEASED (PAVLICEK
HAD ACTUALLY BEEN RELEASED FOR HEALTH REASONS ABOUT TWO MONTHS
AGO), BUT THEIR CASES WILL REMAIN UNDER PROSECUTION WITH THEM
AT LIBERTY. A LETTER HAVEL SENT TO THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL
ON APRIL 6 WAS ALSO QUOTED IN PART. THE SELECTED QUOTES SHOW HAVEL
AS ADMITTING THAT SOME OF HIS CHARTER 77 ACTIVITY, "THROUGH

BIASED INTERPRETATION IN THE FOREIGN PRESS," MIGHT HAVE HARMED THE CSSR AND INDICATE THAT HE HAD GIVEN UP THE ROLE OF CHARTER SPOKESMAN. ANOTHER ITEM IN THE PRESS OF THE SAM DAY STATES THAT ZDENEK MLYNAR HAD RECEIVED AN EMIGRATION PASSPORT TO PERMIT HIM TO GO TO AUSTRIA AND HIS WIFE, IRENE DUBSKA, HAD RECEIVED A PASSPORT AND PERMISSION TO TRAVEL ABROAD.

2. AFP CORRESPONDENT HERE, WHO KNOWS HAVEL WELL, ATTENDED "OPEN HOUSE" GIVEN BY HAVEL SEVERAL DAYS AGO TO CELEBRATE HIS RELEASE. HAVEL APPEARS TO HAVE LOST SEVERAL KILOGRAMS, BUT OTHERWISE IN GOOD CONDITION. HE EXPECTS TO GO ON TRIAL IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS (I.E. MID - JUNE) AND IS UNHAPPY ABOUT THE SELECTION OF EXCERPTS FROM HIS LETTER TO THE PROSECUTOR WHICH WERE GIVEN TO THE PRESS, SINCE THEY MAKE HIM APPEAR TO ADMIT MORE THAN HE IN FACT DID. AS ARTICLE IN MAY 23 LONDON TIMES INDICATES, HE HAS NOT RETRACTED SIGNATURE OF CHARTER.

3. AFP CORRESPONDENT HAS ALSO IN PAST FEW DAYS TALKED WITH JIRI HAJEK, WHO WAS RECENTLY INTERROGATED FOR FIVE HOURS. HE HAS BEEN GIVEN ULTIMATUM TO STOP SIGNING CHARTER 77 DOCUMENTS OR GO TO JAIL. HIS INTERROGATORS ALSO MADE CRYPTIC STATEMENT ABOUT REGIME NOW BEING "READY TO TAKE ACTION ON ITS OWN" IF CHARTER ADHERENTS RESUME PUBLIC ACTIVITY. AFP MAN INTERPRETS THIS TO MEAN THAT SECRET POLICE HAVE SUCH TIGHT SURVEILLANCE ON CHARTER LEADERS THAT ATTEMPTS AT NEW ACTIVITY CAN BE STOPPED BEFORE THEY BUILD ANY MOMENTUM. HE UNDERSTANDS, HOWEVER, THAT CHARTER DOCUMENTS 11, 12 AND 13 HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BUT WILL NOT BE DISSEMINATED UNTIL SOME FUTURE DATE. HIS READING IS THAT CHARTER ADHERENTS ARE NOW READY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO GET AWAY FROM THE "OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN" SYSTEM TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR AUTHORITIES TO CLAMP DOWN ON FUTURE ACTIVITY.

4. PRIOR TO THE INTERROGATION, WILLY BRANDT'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, WHO WAS ACCOMPANYING MRS. BRANDT ON A PRAGUE VISIT TO FRIENDS AND/OR RELATIVES, ACCORDING TO GERMAN CHARGE, WAS ABLE AFTER SOME EMBASSY PALAVER WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY TO DELIVER A BRIEF NOTE FROM BRANDT TO HAJEK. HAJEK TOLD BRANDT'S SECRETARY THAT CHARTER 77 GROUP WAS VERY MUCH ALIVE, THOUGH QUIET AT THE MOMENT WHILE REGROUPING. HAJEK EMPHASIZED THAT CHARTER 77'S CONTINUED VITALITY AND SUCCESS WOULD BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE CONTINUED VITALITY AND SUCCESS OF DETENTE.

TM OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT MLYNAR ACCEPTED PERMANENT EXILE IN OBTAINING HIS EMIGRATION PASSPORT, WHILE HIS WIFE INSISTED ON BEING ABLE TO RETURN TO VISIT RELATIVES AND EVENTUALLY WAS GRANTED REGULAR PASSPORT AND EXIT PERMIT PERMITTING REENTRY.

6. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT THE RELEASE OF HAVEL AND PAVLICEK

AND MLYNAR'S CHOICE OF EXILE WILL HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT
ON THE CURRENT MORALE OF CHARTER 77 ADHERENTS. THEIR CZECH
TENACITY NOW SEEMS TO BE ENGAGED, WITH THE BELGRADE PREPARATORY
SESSION LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY. THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO COME UP
WITH ANY TRULY SPECTACULAR MOVES TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH
BELGRADE, BUT BY HANGING ON THEY CAN KEEP THE
AUTHORITIES ENGAGED AND MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO PAPER OVER THE
EXISTENCE OF DISSENT AGAINST AN OPPRESSIVE REGIME THAT WILL BE
TRYING TO PRESENT A BRIGHT FACE AT BELGRADE.
BYRNE

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